

~~B1 C1 1. (Twice Amended) A method of adjusting the brightness of an image, the method comprising the steps of:~~

- ~~acquiring image data by an image acquisition device;~~
- ~~expressing a pixel value of each pixel in said image data as a set of three mutually independent components;~~
- ~~defining the brightness of each pixel based on said three components;~~
- ~~determining a rate of pixels based on a number of pixels having a maximum brightness among all pixels; and~~
- ~~making an adjustment to said pixel value based on the rate.~~

~~B2 17. (Amended) A method of adjusting the brightness of an image, the method comprising the steps of:~~

- ~~acquiring image data by an image acquisition device;~~
- ~~expressing a pixel value of each pixel in said image data as a chrominance value;~~
- ~~defining the brightness of each pixel based on said chrominance value;~~
- ~~determining a rate of pixels based on a number of pixels having a maximum brightness among all pixels; and~~
- ~~making an adjustment to said pixel value based on the rate.~~